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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/028,327	12/21/2001	Michelle A. Miller	TI-32679	4258
23494	7590	03/10/2005	EXAMINER	
TEXAS INSTRUMENTS INCORPORATED P O BOX 655474, M/S 3999 DALLAS, TX 75265			KE, PENG	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2174	

DATE MAILED: 03/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/028,327

Applicant(s)

MILLER ET AL.

Examiner

Peng Ke

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 October 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This action is responsive to communications: Amendment, filed on 10/18/04.

This action is final.

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5, and 9 are independent claims.

In the Amendment, filed on 10/18/04, claims 1, 5, 6, 9, and 10 were amended.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 5, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Salas et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,317,686 in view of Corner et al. (US 6,430,584).

As per claim 1, Salas teaches a user interface for a spreadsheet computer program comprising:

a spreadsheet display having rows and columns of cells (see Salas, column 7, lines 1 – 5);

a cursor operable by a user input which indicates at least one currently selected cell (see Salas, column i6, lines 33 – 38); and

a cell edit line which allows the user to enter a mathematical expression with a sequence of entries (see Salas, figure 4a, item 45), wherein the user interface stores the results of the mathematical expression for display in the selected cell but does not store the mathematical

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expression and displays the results in the cell (see Salas, figure 4a, item 47a, column 12, lines 46 – 53 and column 13, lines 33 – 36).

However, Salas fails to teach not store the mathematical expression in the selected cell.

Corner teaches not store the mathematical expression in the selected cell. (col. 6, lines 16-30; It is inherent when no formula or equation is entered into the cell and no formula or equation is embedded with cell, there no mathematical expression is stored in the selected cell.)

It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Corner's teaching with method of Salas in order to provide user with the ability to handle intermediate calculation without having to enter formulas into the worksheet.

As per claims 5 and 9, they are of similar scope to claim 1 and are rejected under the same rationale (see rejection above).

Claims 2 – 4, 6 – 8, and 10 – 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Salas et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,317,686 in view of Corner et al. (US 6,430,584) in view of Spencer et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,603,021.

As per claim 2, which is dependent on claim 1, Salas and Corner teach the user interface of claim 1 (see rejection above). They fail to teach the user interface of Claim 1, wherein an entry preceded with a "+" or "=" sign is stored as an expression or formula and the result displayed in the cell.

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Spencer discloses wherein an entry preceded with a "+" or "=" sign is stored as an expression or formula and the result displayed in the cell (see Spencer, column 9, lines 19 – 25).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the method of Spencer with the user interface of Salas and Corner in order to specify input of formulas.

As per claim 3, which is dependent on claim 2, Salas, Corner and Spencer teach the user interface of claim 2 (see rejection above). Salas and Corner does not teach the user interface of Claim 2, wherein an entry preceded with a special symbol is stored as text and the text displayed in the cell.

Spencer teaches wherein an entry preceded with a special symbol is stored as text and the text displayed in the cell (see Spencer, column 9, lines 1 – 3).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the method of Spencer with the user interface of Salas and Corner in order to specify input of text strings.

As per claim 4, which is dependent on claim 3, Salas, Corner and Spencer teach the user interface of claim 3 (see rejection above). Salas does not teach the user interface of Claim 3, wherein the special symbol is selected from the following: a quotation mark, and space.

Spencer teaches wherein the special symbol is selected from the following: a quotation mark, and space (see Spencer, column 9, lines 1 – 3).

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It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the method of Spencer with the user interface of Salas and Corner in order to specify input of text strings.

As per claims 6 – 8 and 10 – 12, they are of similar scope to claims 2 – 4, respectively, and are rejected under the same rationale (see rejections above).

Response to Argument

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-12 have been considered but are deemed to be moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

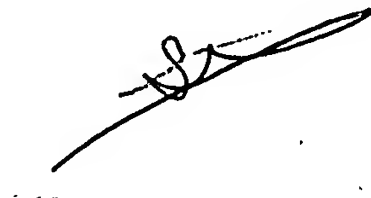
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peng Ke whose telephone number is (571) 272-4062. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th and Alternate Fridays 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine L Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Peng Ke

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Peng Ke', written over a horizontal line.